

REMARKS

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on June 28, 2005. Claims 17-22 and 31-36 are pending in the application. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 17 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (US 5,737,630) hereinafter Kobayashi. The Examiner has found applicant's previous arguments to be somewhat persuasive. Claims 31-36 are indicated as allowed. Claims 18-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response applicant herein presents arguments showing the new art of Kobayashi fails to anticipate the base claim. Additionally the 112 rejection is argued by applicant. No amendments are made to the claims in the present response.

The Examiner rejects claim 17 under 112, second paragraph stating that evidence that claim 17 fails to set forth the subject matter which the applicant's regard as the invention is found in applicant's reply of 9/10/2004. Applicant respectfully suggests that the Examiner is failing to understand the claim in regards to the teaching of the specification. In claim 17, the only matter of concern is that there are at least two separate, but connected devices requesting and giving synchronization. Claim 17 is herein reproduced as an aid in explanation:

17. A method for word synchronization between a plurality of word devices connected by a plurality of serial lines, comprising the steps of:

requesting synchronization from a first device to a second device when the first device does not have synchronization;

receiving a request for synchronization at a first device from a second device, the

first device then becoming synchronized;

transmitting data from a first device to a second device, the first device being synchronized, the first device having received from the second device a synchronization signal indicating that the second device is synchronized.

Page 9-10 of applicant's specification serve as an aid in understanding the invention and the claim. For example, assume word devices 2 and 4 are reset simultaneously so that each device is put into the no_synch state. Further assume that devices 2 and 4 are capable of normal (i.e., error-free) operation after this reset. Then each device outputs Wsynch_A. Each device then receives control word WA and is put into the half_synch state so that each device outputs Wsynch_B. Each device then receives control word WB and is put into the synch state so that each device begins sending normal data, which includes the control word SOP at the start of a packet. Each device then receives control word SOP and is put into active state and continues sending normal data.

Next assume that just device 2 is reset so that device 2 is put into the no_synch state while device 4 is in the active state. Device 2 outputs Wsynch_A while device 4 is sending normal data. Device 4 then receives WSA and is put into the half_synch state so that it outputs Wsynch_B. When device 2 receives WSB, it is put into the half_synch so that it outputs Wsynch_B. Then, as discussed above, devices 2 and 4 can both proceed from the half_synch state to the synch state and then to the active state.

Here we see that "which" device talks to "which" device does not matter because the language between each device enables recuperation to full sync mode at any given time any device fails to achieve sync. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the 112 rejection in view of the above explanation.

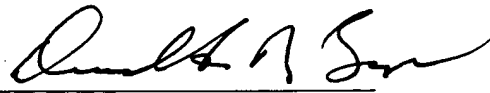
The Examiner rejects claim 17 as being anticipated by Kobayashi. Applicant respectfully points out that the art of Kobayashi is not in analogous art with the present invention. Kobayashi teaches communication between a master CPU and a slave CPU controlling vehicular operations. In order to shorten time needed for communication and alleviate the processing load of the handshake procedure, a master CPU and a slave CPU perform an exchange of data utilizing a first data line and a second data line. A key word is entered in a communication message to the master CPU from the slave CPU requesting initialization be performed. An initialization request from the slave CPU to the master CPU is performed with a key word accompanying a communication error from the slave CPU. The master CPU initializes the slave CPU and synchronizes with it by utilizing a request line, and a reply line only when the master CPU power is turned on or when a communication error occurs including the request for initialization by means of the key word.

As can be seen clearly from the above teaching of Kobayashi there is a master and a slave device. In applicant's invention the devices all evenly control sync in each other. In the art of Kobayashi the master CPU fails to operate like either device claimed in claim 17, wherein requesting synchronization from a first device (slave) to a second device (master) when the first device does not have synchronization; receiving a request for synchronization at a first device (slave) from a second device (master), the first device then becoming synchronized. Applicant argues that there is no teaching in the art of Kobayashi that the master CPU requests synchronization from the slave. Clearly, not only is the art of Kobayashi not analogous to the fabric switch environment of applicant's invention, the devices do not have the same structure, nor do they have the same functionality.

Applicant believes claim 17 is patentable as argued above. Claims 18-22 are patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim. Claims 31- 36 are indicated as allowed.

It is therefore respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered and that this case be passed quickly to issue. If there are any time extensions needed beyond any extension specifically requested with this amendment, such extension of time is hereby requested. If there are any fees due beyond any fees paid with this amendment, authorization is given to deduct such fees from deposit account 50-0534.

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